



Critical Investments: Career and College – Ready, Set, Go!

Even in these tough economic times, Gov. Perdue remains committed to her goal of preparing every student to graduate from high school ready for college, a career or technical training. While this budget makes a series of targeted reductions to K-12 that are designed to create savings while having as little impact on students as possible, it makes critical investments in preparing students to be competitive in the 21st century.

While most agencies received a 5% to 7% cut, education was cut less than 3%. The budget protects all K-3 classrooms from cuts. It also protects teachers' jobs by utilizing lottery proceeds, mandating local jurisdictions to maximize federal funds, and to use attrition as a means of personnel management. Some highlights:

K-12

- ✓ \$10 million recurring for handheld diagnostic technology for teachers, expanding the current pilot project with a focus on low-performing schools first. These devices give teachers the unprecedented ability to track individual students in real time, showing where they need help so teachers can keep them from falling behind.
- ✓ \$1 million for Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) to provide all teachers with value-added tests and to support a statewide web application that includes student projections, diagnostics, and customized student planning.

Community Colleges

- ✓ \$81 million to fully fund enrollment growth in the community college system – and retrain workers who are unemployed in this recession.
- ✓ \$33 million to upgrade equipment and technology needs in the community colleges to train students for today's workforce.

UNC System

- ✓ \$5.6 million for enrollment increases in the UNC System.
- ✓ \$24 million to support campus buildings coming online 2010-11.
- ✓ \$35 million for need-based financial aid in the UNC system, which will cover approximately 4,600 new students.
- ✓ \$22 million to upgrade equipments in the fields related to health, science, engineering and technology programs.